HOUSTON DAILY POST

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HOUSTON, SUNDAY, DEC. 10.

SIXTEEN PAGES.

THE VISITORS.

Houston threw her doors wide open for the reception and entertainment of the visitors from along the line of the Houston and Texas Central railway.

They were met at the station by a committee of citizens and by friends and relatives and there were numerous cordial greetings.

Though many of them are not frequent visitors to Houston the fact remains that they are our neighbors and closely allied to us by other ties than those of intimate trade relations, and it is Houston's earnest wish to strengthen and cement the natural affiliations which should and do exist. The entertainment provided for the visitors was such as Houstonians believed would best suit the occasion. They were given an opportunity to observe industrial progress and enterprise of the city and to meet and mingle with its people for the mutual pleasure and profit of all. The welcome extended was general and spontaneous. As an outward mark it was shown in liberal decorations of buildings and in such preparations as would afford comfortable accommodations for all. It was otherwise shown in the cordial and hearty greetings and in the efforts made to contribute to the pleasurable entertainment of the visitors in every way possible. The excursionists have seen the future metropolis of the Southwest and we hope they have been as pleasantly entertained as it was the desire they should be and in bidding them adieu The Post can hardly do better than to employ a well worn but expressive couplet:

"Happy to meet, sorry to part
And happy to meet again."

BUSINESS.

There was little perceptible improvement in the volume of trade the past week, though the small decrease in clearing house returns as compared with last year is regarded as encouraging.

Trade manifests a hesitating tendency, attributable to a disposition to await the action of congress on the tariff question, and it seems probable that no very decided improvement will be manifested until the intention of congress is definitely known with regard to tariff changes.

This is perfectly natural and according to general expectation and only emphasizes the necessity for as prompt action by congress in dealing with the revenue problem as may be consistent with a proper and careful consideration of the subject. The question is not so much what congress will do, as when it will be done. Owing to prolonged trade depression, importers and others have large stocks of foreign goods on hand, and pending the action of congress they are undecided what course to pursue with reference to increasing or diminishing such stocks, and this uncertainty, coupled with other causes, tend to further depression. The prices of the South's leading staple have declined, owing to indications of a larger supply on plantations than was expected, while mills and factories are inclined to limit production.

There is nothing discouraging in the situation, however; merely a disposition to wait, and if congress acts promptly, the expected business recovery will soon be realized.

A MAN DEEPLY WRONGED.

The straightforward, manly and patriotic letter of J. J. Van Alen declining the office of ambassador to Italy, to which he was appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate, has silenced some of the carping critics.

There has been a decided revulsion of feeling as the outcome of the correspondence between the president and Mr. Van Alen, and the impression is freely evinced that both the president and his appointee to the court of King Humbert have been unwarrantably and outrageously assailed.

Many of the leading papers which had nothing to say as to the lack of propriety of the course criticism and animadversion of unfriendly critics when the object of their attack was powerless to defend himself from the aspersions put upon him now freely admit the wrong done in unjust accusations. The position he occupied is clearly stated by the Philadelphia Times:

> He had an entirely justifiable ambition to represent his country abroad and he was deliberately selected by the president as ambassador to Italy, a position for which he was fully fitted at least according to our accepted diplomatic standards—by character, education and ability. Suddenly and unexpectedly there opened up a him one of the most extraordinary and unjustifiable campaigns of defamation that have ever disgraced American journalism. He could not retire meet, without seeming to acknowledge that the accusations not only against him but against the administration were true, and the president could not, with self-respect, withdraw his nomination. It was duly considered in the senate and duly confirmed and Mr. Van Alen's detractors seemed disappointed. But he felt, as a gentleman must, that he could not fitfully represent the country after all this abuse had been heaped upon him. His honor was more valuable than the office. And having received the commission he returns it to the president in a very dignified letter, which ought to make those who have been pursuing him ashamed of themselves, if they are capable of shame.

The Washington News thinks the American newspapers have a good many apologies to make to Mr. Van Alen; that the letter he has written to President Cleveland, declining to serve as minister to Italy, is not the kind of epistle that emanates from either a dude or an Anglomaniac, and that the correspondence serves to further accentuate the fact that President Cleveland knows more about the real fitness of the men he selects for offices than the critics who admadvert upon his appointments from an entirely superficial standpoint.

The New Haven Register frankly admits that Mr. Van Alen's letter shows him to be a man of dignified self-control and more than average self-respect, and that it has done him an injustice, but makes a very lame apology by claiming that the protest against his appointment was more a criticism of the administration than of him. The Register, however, probably comes much nearer the truth than the less candid and less ingenious anti-administration organs will approach.

THE FEE SYSTEM.

There is one recommendation of President Cleveland's message which should commend itself not only to congress, but to the people generally.

It is the abolition of the fee system as applicable to the compensation of United States attorneys, marshals, clerks of Federal courts and United States commissioners.

It is clearly in the interest of the community, says the president, that the business of the courts, both civil and criminal, shall be as small and as inexpensively transacted as the ends of justice will allow. He further declares the system is thoroughly vicious which makes the compensation of court officials depend upon the volume of such business, and thus creates a conflict between a proper execution of the law and private gain, which can not fail to be dangerous to the rights and freedom of the citizen and an irresistible temptation to the unjustifiable expenditure of public funds.

If this be true of Federal court officials, will it not apply with equal force to State, county and municipal offices? Many reasons might be advanced in support of the claim that the fee system is generally pernicious and should be abolished whenever and wherever it can be done in the interest of the public service. It is eminently proper that the public servant should be paid according to his service, but his compensation ought not to be contingent upon such service as might be prostituted to his own benefit and against public and private welfare.

It would probably be better if all public officials, of whatever character, were paid fixed salaries, graded according to the amount of work performed and the responsibility attaching to the office and the fee system abolished altogether.

Immigrants are coming to Texas by the scores, mainly from Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama, and they are of the most desirable kind. Many, if not most of them, will at once become free holders and assist in developing the agricultural capabilities of the country.

There are too many demagogues in our political system.

The supreme court of Maine has decided—following other cases—that water and gas mains are fixtures and are to be classified and taxed as real estate and must be rendered and assessed as such for taxes in the place where located.

There is no question that Houston knows how to entertain strangers.

It is estimated that a graded tax on inheritances, legacies and successions would yield the government a revenue of $20,000,000 annually, but the people who would pay the tax are unalterably opposed to the levy. Of course.

The democrats of Texas are on the democratic platform and they intend to stay there.

Taxing playing cards five cents a pack and doubling the tax on cigarettes will not be a drop in the bucket as far as the general revenue is concerned. It would hardly pay the cost of one active filibuster in delaying legislation.

They all say Houston is ahead of any city in the Southwest for enterprise and business activity.

Governor Waite was waited on by some of the Colorado people and advised to wait a while before issuing his call for a special session of the legislature, but their arguments appear to have had no weight.

Senator Voorhees should not permit his pension foolishness to dim the lustre of his previous political record.

Houston's bank clearances last week aggregated $9,102,847, an increase of 16.6 as compared with the corresponding week last year. There are no insects on Houston.

As new settlers come in the big pastures will be cut up into small farms and Texas will grow and prosper.

Republican members of the lower house of congress filibustered to prevent consideration of a bill to create a new State, and the result may prove as much to their disadvantage as it is to their discredit.

The strangers within our gates are advised that the doors of the churches stand open and that all are welcome.

The Kansas Farmers' alliance has been absorbed by the populist party and is no more. The prediction made several years ago that politics would kill the alliance has been verified in Kansas.

Representative Harter of Ohio wants the sugar bounty taken off and a tax put on, not for protection, but for revenue.

If you are in doubt as to the proper section of a Christmas present consult the advertising columns of The Post.

EXCHANGE INTERVIEWS.

One of the important lessons learned from last Tuesday is what a magnificent success the citizens of a city can secure through unity of action controlled by proper enterprise and energy.—Waco Telephone.

The same was demonstrated in Houston within the past two or three days. Everybody worked together, unselfishly, and the results were most gratifying.

Democratic harmony in Texas next year is a matter greatly to be desired, hence when Chairman Baker calls the State convention, those who voted for Cleveland at the last election should and we have no doubt will be admitted without question.—Huntsville Item.

The Post does not apprehend any very great amount of trouble in political matters next year. The scoreheads will have to take a back seat.

In the last election, in round numbers in the State Cleveland received 220,000 votes, Hogg 190,000, while Clark received 30,000. The combined vote of Hogg and Clark exceeded Mr. Cleveland's vote 5,000. Of course there was no controversy about Mr. Cleveland being the democratic nominee, and any man who voted against him can not possibly make any pretense of being at that time a democrat. It follows that Hogg and Clark between them received 35,000 undemocratic votes. This being true the talk now being indulged in by some newspapers and newspaper correspondents to bring about unity in the party by fixing the sum of the votes cast for Hogg and Clark as the basis of representation in the next convention, is the veriest nonsense, for it would be equivalent to admitting 35,000 undemocratic votes into the democratic convention.—Waco News.

It may be that the fairest way would be to fix the basis on the vote cast for Cleveland.

When the Texas Press association meets one of its most delicate duties will be the investigation of that snake story told by Editor McLendon of Kearney. The snake that he saw and killed in the clouds must be produced in evidence, together with the railroad track which it fell upon and was killed. No other evidence will be admitted. When a Texas editor sees snakes under such extraordinary circumstances, his associates owe it to their honorable profession to have the whole truth brought out.—Fort Worth Gazette.

President Lon Scurlock has appointed Farmer Shaw as a committee to investigate that report.

The Austin correspondent of the Houston Post notes the mention of George Pendexter for attorney general of the State. George ought not to be mentioned—he ought to be nominated and elected, and Texas would have an attorney general in fact as well as in name. He is in the first place a lawyer, every inch of him, and one of the very best in the State. And in the next place, he is a democrat of the good old democratic sort. And in the third place he is one of God's noblemen. A gentleman by instinct—honest, open and brave, George would honor the office much more than the office would honor him.—Paris Advocate.

Mr. Pendexter is all that the Advocate claims for him, but it is doubtful if he would have the office. A lawyer with a fifteen to twenty thousand dollar income would hardly wish to exchange it for the meagre salary paid the attorney general. To use one of Louie Wortham's unique expressions, the compensation of the attorney general would not cover George Pendexter's "trimmings."

POINTS ABOUT PEOPLE.

The Duchess of Cleveland is such an enthusiastic botanist that she has gone to Cape Town by the search of additions to her superb botanic collection.

Senator Gorman of Maryland intends to make a journey with his family early next summer to Alaska. They will travel extensively along the Pacific coast.

William Walter Phelps will not become an editor. He is content to remain in the ranks of the fellows who know more about newspapers than they do about politics.

Lady Carlyle is training women for the work of landscape gardeners, with whose aid she hopes to be able to maintain the picturesque beauty of the lawns upon her Yorkshire home.

The Prince of Wales wears a bracelet. So does the Duke of Edinburgh-Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, etc. Strange to say, the young war lord, Kaiser Wilhelm, also wears one, which is so fixed on his wrist that it can not be removed, unless it be filed off.

John Lee Carroll, ex-governor of Maryland, is the grandnephew of the first Catholic archbishop of Baltimore. Mr. Carroll takes no stock now in public affairs further than that of an ordinary private citizen.

M. Massenet, who is now sojourning in the south of France, a Parisian correspondent says, has nearly completed the score of "La Navarraise," a one-act opera, in which Mme. Calve will undertake the leading role next season at Convent Garden. The composer has promised Sir Augustus Harris and Mme. Calve to conduct the first performance of the work.

The Comte de Montesquiou, who exhibits exquisite specimens of inlaying at the Grafton gallery, in London, is a rich and eccentric French nobleman, who lives in the immediate neighborhood of Paris. His house is a show place, and especially remarkable for the dining room, which contains a winter garden. Walking about among the plants are a great number of small, live Venetian turtles, variously enameled and incrusted with diamonds and other precious stones.

VAN ALEN ENCORE.

Mr. Van Alen has proved himself more of a man than his detractors thought him.—Buffalo Enquirer.

Mr. Van Alen's course all through the affair has been entirely creditable to him.—Utica Observer.

Mr. Van Alen has proved to be more amenable to public opinion than Mr. Cleveland.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Mr. Van Alen thus comes out of the complication better than anybody else concerned in it.—New York Tribune.

The forced resignation is a triumph for frank, persistent, American journalism.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

In brief, Mr. Van Alen manifests a very decent self-respect by bowing resentfully to public opinion.—New York World.

There was never any real basis for the violent opposition to the appointment which has manifested itself in some quarters.—New York Times.

The idea that the appointment was made in consideration for contribution money paid is brushed aside by both Mr. Van Alen and Mr. Cleveland.—New York Sun.

All who know Mr. Van Alen know him to be worthy of the place, and his letter will only strengthen their belief that no mistake was made in his appointment.—Erie (Pa.) Herald.

Mr. Van Alen has demonstrated that he is not impervious to public criticism, but in so doing he has left his would-be benefactor, the president, in a sorry plight.—Chicago Times.

Mr. Van Alen has proven himself a true patriot in resigning his position of ambassador to Italy to which President Cleveland has nominated, and the senate had confirmed him.—New York News.

In declining to accept the office of ambassador to Italy, although it was well within his grasp, Mr. Van Alen has undoubtedly complied with the wish of a vast majority of the people.—Chicago Herald.

Now that the president has told Van Alen that he was a good fellow and Van Alen has expressed his agreement with the president, we suppose that all the bad things said about the duke must be taken back.—Cleveland Leader.

The public will comment long upon the peculiar longevity of the reflections of J. J. Van Alen and G. Cleveland, who required eight months to come to a conclusion which the country arrived at in less than eight days.—Minneapolis Tribune.

The correspondence between Mr. J. J. Van Alen and the president, through which the former declines appointment as ambassador to Italy, is sufficient to make every one regret that such a manly, straightforward, patriotic citizen as Mr. Van Alen shows himself to be should not have accepted the office, defying his calumniators. His letter to the president is a model of frankness and good sense.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Lily and Rose.

To the lily said the rose:
"Why is it, do you suppose,
That you never blush at all?
Is your modesty so small?"
To the rose the lily said:
"I am pale, I'm not a maid;
It's because my life is pure;
I've no cause to blush, I'm sure."
Redder still the rose now grew,
And hung down its head in rue;
Low her little head is bent,
The lily didn't give a scent.
—Kansas City Journal.

Still a Deceiver.

'Tis now the naughty little boy
Gets home from school too late
To carry in the evening coal,
But not to go and skate.
—Chicago Inter Ocean.

So Says the World.

'Twixt mammon and mamma and maiden
My row is hard one to hoe
For mammon and mamma and maiden
Respectively answer me "no."
—Detroit Free Press.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

LIVELY SESSIONS IN GEORGIA, VIRGINIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

Governor McKinney Sends in an Able Message to Virginia Solons. Lively times in the South Carolina Bodies—In Georgia.

Richmond, Va., December 8.—As soon as the two houses organized today Governor McKinney sent in his message which is a voluminous and strong document.

The governor begins with the gratifying statement that the financial condition of the State is better than it has been for years and is steadily improving. That it is ample to pay the regular expenses of government, sustain the asylums and schools, pay interest on the public debt and provide for the Confederate veterans. The assessment of taxes has increased from $2,648,328.13 in 1889 to $3,147,908.31 in 1893.

He deals briefly with the public debt, stating that under the settlement effected during his administration $24,547,358 of old bonds have been received in exchange for new. There is still outstanding a small balance of bonds which have not been exchanged, because the limitation given the board of commissioners expired before this could be accomplished. He recommends that their powers be renewed for a limited time, so that the whole debt may be settled on the same conditions. Four times the semi-annual interest has fallen due and was promptly met every time. He also recommends that the commissioners of the sinking fund be authorized to purchase so many of the bonds of the State as they can with propriety do, so that there shall be no increase in the amount to be paid in meeting the 3 per cent interest when it falls due in July, 1894.

He says that there are now 1340 convicts in the penitentiary, 150 of whom are serving a second term.

The governor suggests that a law should be enacted allowing the chief executive to grant conditional pardons to prisoners in the penitentiary and in the county jails. He recommends the ticket-of-leave plan, based upon the good behavior of the prisoner, with subsequent arrest and imprisonment, on the failure of the person thus released to conduct himself as a good citizen. Attention is called to the astounding fact that the criminal expenses of the State have increased from $75,000 in 1860 and $148,000 in 1870 to $327,000 in 1893.

He grapples dead-on at length with the oyster question, which he has carefully studied, and believes that the problem will be solved if the present policy is pushed to its logical end. He holds that the oysters belong to the whole people and that they should get their fair longings. The grounds are rented at the low price of $1 per acre.

The governor recommends that the vessels now used in the service of guard and protect the oyster interests should be disposed of and others better suited should be selected.

The governor shows that there are in the State 2,000,000 acres of material bed or rocks which no dredge should ever be allowed to scrape. In Chesapeake bay proper there are 250,000 acres of ground, to say nothing of the grounds on the ocean side of the Accomac and Northampton and marsh lands. The governor believes that in time all these can be rented at $1 an acre, giving the State a magnificent revenue.

The governor gives attention to the poor pay of circuit court judges. Their salaries were reduced, he says, when Virginia was in great financial distress, but now that the debt has been settled and the revenues of the State sufficient to come up to the mark, he recommends that the pay of judges be increased, because increased pay will insure such faithful and intelligent men a fair compensation for their services.

The governor calls for an enabling act that will allow the country areas in towns which desire to do so should be allowed to issue bonds, redeemable in thirty years.

The governor believes that under the present system Virginia spends in money and statutory labor $50,000 per annum on public roads. This sum, he says, would pay 6 per cent interest on $12,000,000 and this would bring the counties would give a magnificent sum of money for road improvement.

The governor congratulates the people of the State on their public schools and colleges. During his administration the increase in the number of schools has been 492; increase in pupils enrolled, 11,123; in teachers employed, 504; in school buildings, 250; in expenditures, $197,384; and in value of property, $2,000,000.

The riot at Roanoke is briefly reviewed and the action of the mayor and military in repelling the mob is cordially approved. "Let no one be deceived," says the governor, in commenting upon the occurrence, "the laws of this State will be enforced. If the civil authorities are not sufficient the military forces will, when necessary, be sent to their assistance, armed and ready to support the majesty of the laws and the dignity of the State—not only for a few hours. Good men will rise up and crush them and all offenders will be punished in the end. The military will, when ordered, out, carry loaded rifles and will use them, when ordered to do so by the officers in command, and the consequences must be on the heads of those who make it necessary."

Soon after the war, says the governor, when the State was under military rule, when our laws were in a state of demoralization and when a large portion of our population were suddenly made citizens and turned loose upon society without regard to the rights of others and with no respect for law, a nameless crime against defenseless females was sometimes committed and nothing but lynch law seemed sufficient to meet the ends of justice. At that time the summary execution of the culprit met with the acquiescence of all classes of people. But now, that the courts are in the hands of our own citizens, the people should respect and uphold the law and await the result of a fair trial of the accused. Lynch law has never proven itself a preventive of such crimes. He, therefore, appeals to the people to let the law of the land take its course.

South Carolina.

Columbia, S. C., December 9.—A joint resolution to submit to the people an amendment to the constitution so as to provide for biennial sessions of the legislature was killed. A joint resolution to exempt dwelling houses on farms from taxation for five years was killed.

The legislature is about to jump on the Southern Express company as well as on the railroads. A bill is to be introduced not only to put the company under the railroad commission, but to make its property subject to taxation by the State board of equalization, just like the railroads. The returns are now passed upon by township and county boards of equalization. Those in favor of the bill say that the company is guilty of discrimination.

The matter of a new county to be formed with Greenwood as the county seat was heard before the house committee tonight. Delegations representing both sides from Abbeville and Edgefield were present and submitted argument. The committee decided to report favorably.

A legislative session after Christmas is necessitated by the fact that the new extension of the statute laws of the State will have to be read throughout by the clerks of both houses three times just as all other matters of legislation are. Late tonight this decision was arrived at by the joint committee of both houses. Nearly three years was spent in this codification of the laws and the report contains of two large volumes which can hardly be read in less than three weeks of nightly sessions. The first time it will be read by its title simultaneously in both houses, probably tomorrow. This will be the first time that the session has extended past Christmas.

In Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., December 8.—It is strictly business with the house just at present.

The members have awakened to a realizing consciousness of the fact that they have but a few days left, and are simply need over heels in unfinished legislation. Accordingly a motion was introduced in the morning session that, for the balance of the week, both afternoon and evening sessions be held.

Some of the statesmen looked a little glum at this proposition, but nobody had the temerity to oppose it, and it went through with a feeble affirmative.

In the course of the day a good many measures of interest, and some of genuine importance, were acted upon.

The bitterest fight was upon the school book bill of Mr. West of Lowndes and for a time things were decidedly lively upon the floor. It is an old legislative bugbear, and was put into its little grave this time just as it has been for four consecutive sessions in the past.

The constitutional convention bill, introduced by Mr. Reagan, was the subject of another spirited discussion, but the votes were against it also and the eloquence of its projector and friends proved to be love's labor lost.

The bill of Mr. Graham of Appling acted upon late in the afternoon is a measure of genuine importance, albeit, it made no special stir. It substitutes a general game law for the special regulations on the subject which have heretofore prevailed in the several counties. The bill passed after some opposition.

At the night session, Mr. King's bill providing for amendments to the city charter, passed. This provides for the election by the people of city officers—the treasurer, the clerk, the marshal, the engineer, city attorney, tax collector, comptroller, sexton and commissioner of public works.

BANK CLEARINGS.

The following table, compiled by Bradstreet's, shows the clearing house receipts with percentage of increase or decrease for the week ending December 8, as compared with the corresponding week last year:

New York, decrease	28.5	$906,842,006
Chicago, decrease	14.5	108,194,847
Boston, decrease	9.6	103,539,578
Philadelphia, decrease	10.3	79,877,750
St. Louis, decrease	12.6	23,762,920
San Francisco, decrease	17.7	19,982,874
Baltimore, decrease	7.3	15,225,952
Pittsburg, decrease	18.6	12,787,042
Cincinnati, decrease	13.6	12,222,100
Kansas City, decrease	5.5	9,743,243
New Orleans, decrease	12.5	14,715,916
Buffalo, decrease	10.1	8,022,384
Milwaukee, decrease	47.1	5,235,489
Detroit, decrease	25.8	6,259,627
Louisville, decrease	28.2	4,705,981
Minneapolis, decrease	31.6	8,075,814
Omaha, decrease	14.0	3,540,012
Providence, decrease	27.4	3,470,900
Cleveland, decrease	31.0	4,057,291
Houston, increase	**16.6**	**9,102,847**
St. Paul, decrease	19.7	5,215,080
Denver, decrease	47.2	2,910,923
Indianapolis, decrease	17.0	4,443,197
Columbus, O., decrease	21.4	3,265,900
Hartford, decrease	5.5	2,249,000
Richmond, decrease	1.8	2,507,645
Washington, decrease	31.1	1,878,933
Duluth, decrease	25.3	2,145,821
Dallas, increase	2.3	1,252,218
St. Joseph, decrease	28.5	1,888,000
Peoria, decrease	18.1	1,832,153
Memphis, decrease	40.6	2,214,834
Portland, Ore., decrease	50.0	1,302,005
Rochester, increase	12.0	2,101,113
New Haven, decrease	17.6	1,346,337
Savannah, increase	3.8	2,081,812
Springfield, Mass., dec.	4.8	1,824,404
Worcester, decrease	14.8	1,230,278
Portland, Me., decrease	11.2	1,211,144
Atlanta, decrease	11.1	1,401,805
Fort Worth, increase	14.0	1,592,657
Waco, decrease	25.0	1,523,015
Syracuse, decrease	21.6	881,525
Lexington, decrease	15.5	841,546
Seattle, increase	59.8	905,190
Lowell, decrease	18.6	718,238
(a) Wilmington, Del.	...	532,579
Norfolk, increase	10.9	1,214,231
Mobile, decrease	8.6	847,000
Los Angeles, increase	11.0	845,400
Tacoma, decrease	31.3	724,019
Saginaw, Mich., decrease	37.7	267,767
Spokane, decrease	68.5	588,511
Jacksonville, Fla., dec.	4.2	406,315
Lincoln, decrease	26.8	676,325
New Bedford, decrease	6.1	597,841
Wichita, increase	1.8	561,003
Birmingham, decrease	50.0	234,236
Topeka, decrease	60.1	436,000
Lexington, decrease	17.2	457,226
Binghamton, increase	13.8	370,600
Emporia, increase	32.3	80,938
(a) Bay City	...	201,407
(a) Fall River	...	820,192
(a) Akron, Ohio	...	198,547
(a) Springfield, Ohio	...	184,008
(a) Canton, Ohio	...	157,258
(a) Sioux Falls	...	102,743
Fremont, Neb.	...	105,000
Hastings, Neb.	...	100,241
Chattanooga	...	204,768
Fargo	...	46,876
Nashville, decrease	6.2	1,037,029
Galveston, increase	2.4	9,196,375
Total, U. S., decrease	22.7	$1,118,427,507
Outside N. Y., decrease	14.6	212,585,401
Dominion of Canada—		
Montreal, decrease	11.6	$12,764,244
Toronto, decrease	19.5	6,066,832
Halifax, decrease	4.0	1,326,147
Hamilton	...	977,841
Totals, decrease	18.2	$21,074,064

(a) Last week's total not included.

SHAT SNOPS.

The Pittsburg barbers have organized. May we hope for cut prices?

An Arizona lady was fined for assault and battery. A cook, perhaps.

President Carnot of France is regarded as an expert crisis manipulator.

Hayti is to begin important public works. Another revolution, perhaps.

Over 90 per cent of the business of this country is said to be done by checks.

A nation that is to poor to have a crisis should make an assignment at once.

Jersey City has a two-headed snake. It was time the preachers took a hand in politics.

What France needs is a style of cabinet that would last at least a year on the average.

Boss McKane will prove that he is a good man—even if he has to give his own testimony.

The final end of Indian wars in this country proves that the comlesary is mightier than the sword.

Just as "depression" and football pass away along comes the grippe. This is truly an afflicted people.

The tin mills are slow in starting up, but Governor Tillman declares the gin mills shall run on "full time."

We remember this was perhaps Mr. Blount's first attempt to turn queen from the bottom of the deck.

There is one deer to every fifty voters in Missouri—and there will be about fifty stories as to who killed him.

The civil service cranks will shine in their effort to show that the Italian pension is low second hand goods.

The New York Herald boasts that it is the personal organ of Admiral Mello. But it admits that he is at sea.

There is an epidemic of grippe at Washington. It is about the only thing that can lead a congressman by the nose.

The Gould Check.

The curious claim asserted by Mrs. Zella Nicolaus against George Gould became public this week through the fact that a judge in New York had appointed a guardian ad litem for her to enable her to file suit, she not being of legal age. Her petition alleges:

That she is under the age of 21 years, and that on May 25, 1893, she was of the age of 15 years.

That she resides at the city of New York, and that she has no general guardian appointed pursuant to law.

That she desires to commence an action against one George J. Gould. That said cause of action arises out of the following facts:

That during the month of March, 1893, this petitioner was possessed and was the owner of a certain instrument in writing or order for the payment of money—to-wit, a check made by the said George J. Gould for the sum of $40,000, signed by said George J. Gould, which was of the value of $40,000.

That subsequently and while so possessed of said check said George J. Gould wrongfully obtained said check and appropriated the same to his own use, to the petitioner's damage in the sum of $40,000.

Mrs. Nicolaus is a beautiful young "grass widow," of slight and graceful figure, whose chief charms of appearance are her magnificent golden hair and her pink and white complexion. She looks, as she swears she is, less than 20 years old. Her hair is very light, soft and silky, and her eyes are violet blue. Her features are small and pretty. Her teeth, which she shows prominently when she smiles, are quite large and very white.

RESOURCES OF TEXAS.

INVESTIGATION BY COMMISSIONER HOLLINGSWORTH.

Result of Pear Cultivation in the Coast Region—The Grain and Cotton Lands and What They Are Capable of Producing.

Austin, Texas, December 9.—The following is from Commissioner Hollingsworth, commissioner of the department of agriculture, statistics and history:

It has been one of my main efforts as commissioner of agriculture to collect in my department an exhibit of the various products of the State, together with such information as would be of use in exemplifying the agricultural and horticultural possibilities of Texas. While I readily admit the great value of our undeveloped resources and the importance of establishing factories, yet at the same time I am forced to the conclusion that the wealth of Texas consists in its incomparable agricultural and horticultural possibilities, pursuits to which our people are in all things adapted and the soil, climate and season lend every aid. I do not claim to have completed my work so far as to give in full these possibilities, yet I think sufficient can be said to arouse an interest at home and to be exceedingly suggestive to all persons investigating such questions.

In beginning, I will assert that in no place does experimenting with varieties and methods produce more startling results than in Texas. Often a man fails with a variety, where later on another man, by adopting a new method, using the same variety, makes a most signal success. When Mr. H. M. Stringfellow concluded to plant a pear orchard in Galveston county and make the Le Conte pear his principal one, his friends told him who had tried that pear and failed, to beware of danger and great loss. Having nothing to guide him in the way of other men's success and knowing what his friends told him was so, he concluded as a last resort to plant the pear orchard and rely on new methods for results. This year he has marketed 9127 bushels of pears off of thirteen acres, and has paid out nearly $100 per acre to his neighbors as wages for help and harvesting, and the crop netted him $5,65. His new method was merely to fertilize his trees heavily using as much as a ton per acre and his results a fortune to himself and descendants. I have in my collection one bushel of these pears, and they average 23 ounces each in weight, and will sell on account of excellence, in any market. In oats I can present some wonderful facts. They are winter oats, and have been grown by Mr. John Harrison of Nash, Ellis county, for twenty-two years. As soon as the harvest the stubble turns under the stubble. His oats come up voluntarily, and he only sows when he desires to change his field for oats. The samples I have are the fifth crop from the sowing, on which one hundred acres were harvested all winter, and yet it made over seventy bushels per acre. His least crop in the twenty-two years was sixty bushels to the acre, and he has made as high as ninety bushels per acre. I also have the seed oats, taken out of a four hundred acre patch that averaged over one hundred and twenty-five bushels per acre. Wheat, of which I have six varieties, shows a yield ranging from 30 to 48 bushels per acre. This was the surprise both spring and winter wheat, and the samples are excellent.

The grain lands of Texas are the black, waxy lands in the North and Central portions of the State and the black, sandy, chocolate and red lands of the West and North. As cotton is the principal crop of the black waxy lands, but little experiment on varieties and methods as to grain has been made. It is looked upon by all that a crop of grain is certain, and but little care is given to the preparation of the soil or the selection of the variety. In the West and Northwest all credit for a crop of grain is given to the season and climate, and methods play but a small part, yet I have all kinds of grain perfectly grown and showing a large yield. In all the States where the people, on account of the density of the population and scarcity of land, have been forced to adopt methods and select varieties with a view to get all possible from the soil, the yield in grain has uniformly been doubled from what it formerly was. I think I can safely say that every indication points to similar results in this State. Here I have oats that have made 125 bushels per acre. The man who grew them put in a little extra time in preparing the soil. His neighbors made 70 bushels per acre, hence this extra time paid him 55 bushels of oats per acre. Now let us add fertilizers and a little more time, and what then? In wheat I have 48 bushels per acre, against 25 for neighboring farms. A little extra work in preparing the soil paid 23 bushels of wheat per acre. Now, what can be added by varieties and fertilizers? In corn, barley, millet and rye the same results are shown. I am convinced that by experimenting in methods and a selection of the variety best suited, the yield of grain in this State can be made phenomenal, and the grain crop of the West and Northwest made as sure as the cotton crop of the black lands.

I have often advocated the diversifying of crops. I know there are portions of Texas that can make more out of crops that can be successfully grown there than cotton. I have some fine samples of tobacco from many places in Texas, and it can be made a paying crop. A Mr. George Mayer in Dallas county is making $60 per acre on tobacco. The idea that tobacco grown here is not so strong and well flavored as that grown elsewhere is a mistake, because when properly handled and cured it has both strength and flavor. Texas tobacco is like all other kinds: it must go through sweats and curing processes to bring out its qualities, but its qualities, when brought out, are perfect, and will sell anywhere. In East Texas and along the coast of Texas tobacco should be cultivated extensively and will pay profit. I also have flax. It decorticates perfectly with a fine fibre and the yield of seed is large. Flax is extensively grown just north of Austin, the seed matures perfectly in Texas and yields a large amount of oil. Rice I also have, and there is quite a territory in Texas susceptible to rice culture. Texas rice is as fine as the best raised anywhere, and sells as well. Sugar is a paying crop in Texas, as is well known. Hops, though only raised on private vines, show that in Texas a valuable industry can be started when the people are inclined.

In regard to horticulture, I will make the broad statement that my exhibit shows conclusively that no man has any possible excuse for not having fruits, flowers and vegetables around his house. I have fruits and vegetables of all kinds and many varieties from all portions of the State, and grown on all kinds of soil. I have them from East Texas, beginning at Jefferson county and coming at course. On the black lands I have them at Victoria county and and at Grayson and Cooke, and from Amarillo to Rockport we have them from the West. Let no one think that I will stop at these general statements, for I shall not. It is my purpose here to give in detail what is, as a rule, referred to in glaring generalities. On horticultural products Texas has the market of Denver, Chicago, Omaha and the West and Northwest until about August 1 without much or any opposition, and the railroads of the State give us carload lots rates that are exceedingly liberal and far below rates that are enjoyed by California to the same points. Along the coast from Orange to Corpus Christi in February vegetables of many kinds are ready for the market, and from this on until the whole State has vegetables. Texas stands from thirty to sixty days ahead of the other States in the markets and this continues and extends to melons white other States are laboring in expensive green-houses to force a few early products, they are growing in our gardens to perfection. A fair illustration is celery, which grows in Texas whenever tried and comes on the market just as the Northern disappears. Celery has been successfully grown in South, Galveston, Weller and Tom Green counties, to come on the market about March 1, and better county to come on the market in October. This can be made a profitable industry in our State.

Our strawberry season opens early and about thirty days in advance of all competition and the territory extends from Galveston to Denison. The sandy lands of East Texas are well adapted to this berry and the annual net returns for some years have been $800 to every three acres of berries. The blackberry grows over a much larger territory and by many have been found to be more profitable than the strawberry. Plums grow extensively in Texas and have paid in many places as high as $80 per acre. In June we enter the Chicago market with the Mamie Ross peach, selling them at $2 per bushel, and we hold the market on peaches in the West and Northwest until about August 1. Peaches this year have netted about $475 per car. Smith county alone reported a revenue in 1892 from peaches of $77,000.

The European grapes from around Rockport, which can be successfully grown from Fort Lavaca to Brownsville, are ready for market by June 6 and sell at 25 cents per pound. They yield from thirty to over 100 pounds per vine and are grown on stubs without any expense for stakes and wires or training in any way. The American grapes grow all over the State and when properly handled pay $100 per acre or over.

Pears are grown all over the State and successfully grown. The largest yield known is that of Mr. Stringfellow at Hitchcock, being 9127 bushels on thirteen acres.

I have apples from all portions of North Texas and that have grown on all kinds large and well flavored. In a collection I have from Bowie, Montague county, are Ben Davis, Arkansas Black, Limber Twig, Wine Sap, Northern Spye, Nickey Jack, Winter Pearmain and Shockley. It was the opinion of ex-Governor E. O. Stanard of Missouri, that these apples would sell on the St. Louis market at any time on account of their general excellence. Apples can be made an industry in Texas equal to that of any State and the profit much larger. I have some fine apples from the Pecos valley and onions weighing thirty-one pounds each.

The melon crop is a very important and profitable one. Limestone county realized from 200 acres last year the handsome sum of $62,000. This county was equally successful with "garden truck," as it reports 399 acres valued at $133,660.

The fine cabbage sold in this State about February are grown on the coast. They are planted in September and make 40 head to the acre. On onions from $100 to $200 per acre are made.

Of course I have many other kinds of fruits and vegetables, but I have mentioned only such as can be developed into an important industry.

One drawback to successful orcharding and truck-patching is the difficulty in getting sufficient persons interested to ship in carload lots, for low rates are always based on large quantities.